

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4 and 6-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 15 and 18 have been amended, and claims 3 and 5 have been cancelled. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant gratefully appreciates this indication.

Applicant discussed the allowable subject matter with the examiner in a telephonic interview on 6/11 and reached an agreement that features of dependent claim 5 (including that of intermediate base claim 3) can be added to independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 18, respectively, to make the claimed subject matter allowable.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 per the above agreements, and have cancelled claims 3 and 5 from further consideration in this application. However, as indicated in the telephonic interview, Applicant is not conceding that the claims (before the current amendments) are not patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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